GRADUATE DESIGN STUDENTS

MS Engineering Design Innovation

class of 2016

class of 2017

Northwestern DESIGN INNOVATION SEGAL DESIGN INSTITUTE at the McCormick School of Engineering
KATHERINE ADAMSKI
MS EDI Class of 2016

Katherine is an artist, engineer, and designer working across a variety of mediums. A long time practitioner of the “maker” and DIY lifestyle, she has taught herself a wide variety of technical and artistic skills. She is passionate about using the design process to improve healthcare, so she recently co-founded inRact - an app to help patients manage their cardiac medication regimens. She is working on turning her passion for travel into a business that inspires and assists independent travelers across the globe.

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PARTH BHATT
MS EDI Class of 2016

Parth is a Mechanical Engineer with experience in Rapid Prototyping, Digital Manufacturing, and Electronics design, production and programming. Currently pursuing his Masters in Engineering design and innovation, his skills lie in the fields of Human centered design, Interaction design, Rapid prototyping, Digital manufacturing, Mechatronics, and Music technology, performance and production. Parth enjoys driving disruptive as well as incremental innovation, with a keen eye for the details of design, he leaves no stone unturned when searching for the solution to a problem. His interests lie in the realm of smart and interactive products.

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RAY CHEN

MS EDI Class of 2016

I have lived in the Midwest my entire life having grown up in Michigan. Prior to EDI I worked at MINIWIZ this past summer, a design engineering company in Taiwan that uses 100% recycled materials, as well as companies in the automotive industry. Aside from design I am also interested in basketball, tennis, geocaching, and boardgames. I joined EDI because I wanted to understand why I was designing the products that I was making. At my previous working roles I always felt that I was missing the human element behind design. Now I am learning about the human-centered design process and implementing solutions that address user needs.

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JONATHAN CROW

MS EDI Class of 2016

Jonathan is an integrated designer and engineer who strives to improve the way that people interact with products in their daily lives. As an experienced maker with a degree in mechanical engineering, Jonathan loves making products and services that are both functional and delightful. Jonathan is exceedingly interested in why people do what they do, especially when he can discover an unmet need and design accordingly. Through roles on various clubs and committees, Jonathan has also developed an interest in strategy and resource management. Eventually, Jonathan hopes to combine his passion for design, engineering, and strategy to improve the lives of people around the globe.

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Phoebe Evans
MS EDI Class of 2016

I am a maker. I love prototyping especially CAD modeling and 3D printing and anything hands on. I am passionate about building, testing, and rebuilding to make a product better. As an undergrad, I worked in the sub-basement of Ford which is right across from the EDI studio. Therefore I got to see a lot of the projects that they were working on and I wanted to be a part of it. The design process is so much fun, it is a lot of work and can be stressful but in the end it is really rewarding and I think EDI gives a good sense of the whole process.

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Amelia Fish
MS EDI Class of 2016

Amelia is pursuing a Master of Science in Engineering Design & Innovation (EDI). Prior to EDI, Amelia worked at Air Products & Chemicals, holding a variety of roles through their Career Development Program, a three-year rotational engineering program. During her three years at Air Products, she found that she really loved the work that enabled her to make other people's jobs easier by streamlining tedious tasks or creating digital job aids that made information and resources more accessible. She decided to go back to school to pursue her passion for helping others, through EDI's curriculum focusing on using the human-centered design process to create innovative products and services that truly satisfy the needs and desires of people.

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MADELEINE KLICHOWSKI
MS EDI Class of 2016

My favorite part about the design process is rapid prototyping. I love solid modeling with CAD and then being able to 3D print a model with a fast turn around time. I like learning to use new machines and knowing how to optimize products for such machines.

The competitive drive that I exhibited throughout undergrad while swimming for NU has transferred seamlessly to my academic career. I believe that tirelessly creating multiple iterations of products after obtaining feedback is the best path towards creating an ideal product.

AUBREY KRAFT
MS EDI Class of 2016

Aubrey is a creative thinker who values, supports, and produces ideas that push boundaries. She translate ideas into solutions that make an impact. After her undergraduate studies, Aubrey spent two years discovering more about people around the world before beginning the EDI program. Teaching English in Malaysia as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant and traveling through Europe and Southeast Asia helped her identify her passion for human centered design.
ELLIE PEARLMAN
MS EDI Class of 2016

I am a multifaceted problem solver who wants to design beautiful yet functional products and services that inspire people to create change. I draw inspiration from the winding path that has led me here. I've come a long way from my Bachelor's in Neuroscience. Though I am still fascinated by the workings of the human brain, I've moved away from studying it at the lab bench, and towards applying it to creating informed, human-centered designs. I love solving a good problem (be it the morning crossword or the leaky kitchen faucet), making anything by hand, taking on new hobbies and spending countless hours enjoying old ones. When I'm not in the studio you'll definitely find me outside - skiing, hiking, running, climbing, or just appreciating the view.

JAEHYUK RHEE
MS EDI Class of 2016

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KAREN SCHMIT
MS EDI Class of 2016

I am a problem solver. I enjoy projects which address large societal problems and create simple yet elegant solutions. I completed my undergrad in Bsc Innovation Science at Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. My special interest is in how humans, technology and the environment intertwine. I am intrigued by human intuition and the varying degrees of human experience and how that influences design. Currently, I am looking to increase my knowledge in human-centered design and find challenges and opportunities in the fields of user technology interaction, robotics, project management, engineering and innovative design while developing skills to prepare me for the world.

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DELFINA SITAR
MS EDI Class of 2016

In May 2015 I graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Chemical Engineering and a concentration in Art & Design. I am looking to merge my love of visual arts to my technical background with a Master’s in Engineering Design & Innovation.

I want to create beautifully smart designs that invoke a memorable experience. I find joy in waking up early for hot yoga before a busy day in the studio, finding leaves that naturally transitioned into a crimson ombré, or having a latte in the comforts of a local cafe while looking out at a gray sky. Simple beauty motivates me in all aspects of life and design. On a typical day you can find me learning a new skill or looking for adventure.
GEORGIOS SKOUFALOS
MS EDI Class of 2016

George is a graduate student pursuing an MS in Engineering Design Innovation. Through his undergraduate degree he focused on Mechanical Engineering as well as Tech Innovation. Through this combination of degrees and concentrations he aims to pursue a career in successfully bringing new products, technologies and services to a large audiences. Through EDI he has focused on product interactions, materials and manufacturing, bringing products to market and visual storytelling. He spent 2 summer rotations working for Toyota Motors. During his time at Toyota Technical Center he worked with the Safety Department as well as the in-house Prototyping Department.

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YILIN WANG
MS EDI Class of 2016

Yilin is an empathetic thinker and creative problem solver who is curious about what people feel and how they act. With both analytical skills and design thinking skills, Yilin considers herself a hybrid.

Yilin is thrilled that the EDI program is as passionate as she is about creating innovative products that put human experience at the core.

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CARLOS ARMADA
MS EDI Class of 2017

Carlos has a passion for designing for impact and he is constantly searching for ways to improve how we interact with the world around us. He also loves traveling and exploring the natural world. His interest in design innovation grew through his travels. Carlos believes it is through total immersion that designers can push their potential as innovators and leaders.

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AVERY BELLIS
MS EDI Class of 2017

Avery’s technical background in engineering control systems educated him in the grey space between mechanical and electrical engineering. His specific educational program trekked down the path of how mechanical inputs inform electrical feedback systems and their outputs. Avery became interested in human-centered design as an undergraduate and he built his own academic path around that subject. He gained experience focusing on users, finding problems, prototyping solutions, and testing them with users. Avery gained more experience in design research as the studio lead of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s Design For America chapter.

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RYAN CALLAGHAN
MS EDI Class of 2017

I’m excited about the future. There is a tremendous opportunity to create a sustainable future by leveraging technology. Collaboration is essential to impactful accomplishment. I seek to lead teams that build from shared viewpoints while remembering an ideal put forth by Churchill: “Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential.” I believe that creating equity means ensuring the security to all who desire it, including the poor and future generations. While new technologies will certainly have their place in changing our environmental dilemma, I believe that pragmatic strategy changes within existing structures have the greatest potential for impact.

RAHUL CHANDRAWANSHI
MS EDI Class of 2017

Prior to EDI, Rahul worked as a scientist at Defense Research and Development organization (DRDO) where he worked on various projects assuming different roles which provided a holistic view in product development cycle. Designing products to meet various requirements and piqued an interest in designing products that were more focused on human needs. Thus, Rahul decided to pursue higher studies in this field. Having experience in product designing, he wants to further develop skills in design thinking, and human centered design to help him better understand user needs.
PHILLIP CHEHADE
MS EDI Class of 2017

For Philip, certain products have always had the ability to illicit a sense of wonder. As a kid, he would always play with old electronics - they had a strange odor, they would creak and make strange noises, and most of the time they barely worked. But most importantly, they made him smile from ear to ear. Philip is driven to design products that combine the immersive interactions that he has always loved, with the cutting edge of technology. It is his strong belief that this fusion is the most exciting next step for hi-tech product integration.

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HUA CHIN
MS EDI Class of 2017

Both an engineer and a designer, Hua always keeps the users in mind. She aims to solve problems for people both from technical and human-centered perspectives. Prior to joining the EDI program, Hua worked for a medical device company as an engineer. That experience taught her to design with empathy, which she identifies as an important characteristic of a designer. Hua enjoys discovering how human-centered design can be leveraged and implemented into different fields to make the world a better place.
ERICA ISAACS
MS EDI Class of 2017

Erica is a curious engineer and an empathetic designer. She is passionate about developing human centered medical devices that make a positive impact on people’s lives. She aims to be a holistic problem solver by being at the intersection of medicine, engineering, and design. Erica is pursuing an M.S. in Engineering Design & Innovation to compliment her experience in product development with an understanding of human behaviors and psychology as well as to learn how to make really cool stuff. Her curiosity extends outside the workplace and into her everyday life. She loves trying new things and traveling around the world. When she’s not in the studio, Erica loves experimenting with new recipes, listening to podcast after podcast, and adventuring outdoors.

AARUSHI KARIM PANAL
MS EDI Class of 2017

Aarushi is a mechanical engineer who discovered the world of design as an undergraduate at Northwestern through multidisciplinary courses that taught her the design thinking approach to problem solving. She is fascinated with the ways that human-centered design affects the crafting of a product. In particular, she enjoys hearing from consumers, hands-on prototyping, and 3D modeling. Aarushi is enthusiastically looking forward to becoming a designer who creates, innovates and solves problems.
SHEILA LO
MS EDI Class of 2017

Sheila is a mechanical engineer by training. She loves tinkering to understand how things work, building in the machine shop, and designing elegant solutions to complex problems. Her goal is to create innovative products that have an impact on people by leveraging her experiences in engineering design and emergency medicine. Human-centered design requires understanding people and how to effectively translate insights into actionable solutions. I chose the EDI program at Northwestern because I want to learn how to make products that people can and want to use.

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SERGIO MARQUINA
MS EDI Class of 2017

I love working with people and what results from that exchange of ideas. I’m always up for a challenge, especially the ones that seem impossible. While I like a good result, I really enjoy the journey and the process of getting there. I try to maintain a sense of wonder in life. I always try to capture this idea in the things that I design. My goal in life is to do what I love, fulfill my purpose, and help others fulfill theirs.

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ALEXANDER MITTS

MS EDI Class of 2017

Alexander is a person who enjoys considering possibilities and challenging reality. He sees a lot of suffering in the world, and the potential for a lot of joy. His aim is to reduce the former in order to foster the latter. I have always enjoyed cobbling odds and ends together to see what they could become. To me, the world is a collection of processes, with no obvious beginning or end. Working for various nonprofits since graduating from Oberlin forced me to be creative with physical resources.

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ANGIE MERCURIO

MS EDI Class of 2017

Angie discovered the product development process through an unusual medium: theatre. After starring in numerous productions and then falling in love with physics in high school, Angie took on a new role creating stagecraft behind the scenes that brought theatre productions to life. She went on to receive a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and help redesign products for Caterpillar and John Deere as an undergraduate. After receiving her degree, she went to work for a company that manufactures human interfaces. These experiences helped Angie realize that any engineering solution must be a good fit for the body and mind, and her goal now is to become an expert in product development.

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SALLY PARK
MS EDI Class of 2017

Sally is an energetic and curious design engineer, who loves to discover white space and always strives to create innovative and delightful solutions for users. Human-centered design is what ultimately makes a product unique. I believe the fusion of design and engineering will lead to a more dynamic user-centered product. In addition to pleasing aesthetics, a good design should decipher the underlying needs of different users. I decided on the EDI program at Northwestern to develop the skills to integrate design and engineering.

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NICHOLAS PHILLIPS
MS EDI Class of 2017

Nicholas is an engineer, designer, and professional listener-in-training. In his undergraduate studies, he spent worked as a research assistant developing solutions to aid the physical recovery of rehabilitation patients at a local Brain and Spine Institute. There, he developed a passion for human-centered design principles. For most his college career, he knew he wanted to work in product design and development. Being at the forefront of innovation and spearheading technological advancements is where he sees himself in the future. Through ED, he hopes to develop a stronger foundation for innovation and creative thinking. Nicholas wants to attack every problem and create successful and lasting solutions. Whether it is surgical tools, product packaging, kitchen tools, or door knobs, he wants to be constantly finding solutions to problems.

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SAURABHRANE

MS EDI Class of 2017

Saurabh is hesitant to give himself a title, but will settle for inquisitive engineer. Intrigued by the idea of applying traditional engineering principles to the fluid parameters of the human body, Saurabh studied bioengineering as an undergraduate. The fascination of taking a calculated, logical approach to a problem without a defined path led him to the uncertain world of design thinking. Now, Saurabh hopes to hone his skills across engineering, communication, and design to solve the unique problems that cross his path. Saurabh is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area. In his free time, he enjoys sports analytics writing, running, golfing, occasionally trying to solve math puzzles, and watching basketball.

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JULIA SAVICH

MS EDI Class of 2017

Julia is a builder and designer. She graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a degree in Physics, where she brought creativity into the world of physics at every possible moment by sketching out problems and designing research solutions through iteration. She aims to utilize her problem solving skills and human-centered design knowledge within the field of product development. Julia is a details-oriented, driven problem solver who strives to create striking products that consumers cannot live without. Her hobbies of painting, photography, and building homes with Habitat for Humanity help her to see the world in a different way.

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**PHOEBE
SEXTON**

MS EDI Class of 2017

Phoebe considers herself a design thinker, and has always been fascinated with designing products that drive an emotional connection with an end user. She began her career as a designer during her undergraduate studies at Northwestern in Manufacturing and Design Engineering (MaDE). Through this experience and her studies towards a minor in Psychology, Phoebe became an advocate for the user. She feels curious about how people experience the world and how the products around them influence or enhance their experience. Phoebe is passionate about delivering innovative design that builds a strong relationship with consumers.

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**KATRINA
SHAH**

MS EDI Class of 2017

In addition to her love for engineering, Katrina has always enjoyed drawing. What started as simple sketches on a drawing pad has expanded to digital drawings, computer modeling, and animation. With a formal education in engineering from the University of Virginia and a personal passion for creative design, Katrina hopes to create beautiful products that improve people’s everyday lives.

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SANJANA SRINIVASAN
MS EDI Class of 2017

Sanjana is a creative thinker with a passion for problem solving and a desire to create simple, needs-based innovations. With an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering from Boston University and a concentration in Technology Innovations, Sanjana was keen on pursuing a career in product innovation and design. However, she wanted to gain a better understanding of the design innovation process before entering the professional world. Her search for a suitable way to do this led her to the EDI program at Northwestern. With its focus on human-centered design, Sanjana says she found the program to be an ideal fit for her.

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JAMAL THORNE
MS EDI Class of 2017

I am a technologist, artist, and designer currently pursuing a Master of Science in Engineering Design and Innovation (EDI). Prior to EDI, I worked at IBM where I had the opportunity to work with a variety of emerging technologies within the Internet of Things space. It was during my 2 years at IBM that I realized my passion for creating magical experiences and interactions through well-designed products.

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KATIE GEORGE
MS Computer Science

Katie is a Computer Science masters student. She graduated from Northwestern in 2016 with a degree in Psychology. She is interested in human computer interaction, user experience design, and any other fields where Psychology & CS intersect.

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DPI PROJECTS

Why does that particular button make me feel more confident? Why are microsurgeons who are gamers better surgeons? Why is it nearly impossible to type on a tablet? Designing Product Interactions (DPI) is an experimental course exploring these questions and bridging engineering design and perceptual psychology.

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<th>Emotional Box: Confident</th>
<th>Emotional Box: Relaxed</th>
<th>Seeing and Hearing Time</th>
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